

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed on December 28, 2009, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.


Claims 1-15 and 17-22 are pending in this application, where claims 1 and 11 are independent.

In the Office Action, the Examiner found that the Application was in condition for allowance, except for a certain informality which is addressed below. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that this application contains allowable subject matter. Prosecution has been closed on the merits in accordance with Ex Parte Quayle, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935).

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification for failing to provide a proper antecedent basis for a certain portion of the claimed subject matter. Without agreeing with the Examiner, the specification has been amended to include the noted claim portion.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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